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OCTOBER 1.

The President, Dr. **RUSCHENBERGER**, in the chair.

Thirty-nine persons present.

The death of Thomas Potter, Sr., a member, was announced.

Foraminiferous Shells of our Coast.—Prof. **LEIDY** remarked that the vast numbers of Foraminiferous shells, which formed a constituent of the sea-side sands, had been a subject of frequent notice. Feeling interested to know their proportionate quantity on the comparatively barren shore of New Jersey, he had examined the sand at Atlantic City, and at Cape May. The sand in these localities mainly consists of quartz, with black grains, often in considerable quantity, and formerly largely collected for "writing sand," which he supposed to consist of ilmenite and magnetite. Among these were also brilliant red particles, which he supposed to be garnet. All these materials are the comparatively insoluble residue of our inland gneissic, and other rocks.

In sand scraped up from the surface between the tides at Atlantic City, he had found the Foraminiferous shells, all of one species of *Nonionina*, resembling that figured by Ehrenberg as *N. polypora.* They were found in the proportion of about 19,000 to the ounce avoirdupois of sand. In sand, obtained in the same manner at Cape May, there were about 38,000 shells, of the single species just named, to the ounce avoirdupois of sand.

The sands on the rocky New England coast are much richer in Foraminiferous shells, both in numbers and kinds, but they are generally smaller. In sand from the bathing beach at Newport, R. I., collected from the white lines left by the edge of the waves, there were 280,000 shells to the ounce of sand.

OCTOBER 8.

The President, Dr. **RUSCHENBERGER**, in the chair.

Fifty persons present.

On Crustaceans at Cape May, N. J.—Prof. **LEIDY** remarked that, in a recent visit to Cape May, N. J., he had been struck with the immense numbers of the Mole Crab, *Hippa talpoidea*, which inhabited the beach between tides. They were especially abundant above the village of Ocean Grove, but were also numerous below this point, down as far as the light-house. They were generally young, and not larger than the little finger nail. A few only were of mature size. In many positions they were so numerous, that they appeared like rolling pebbles, as they were exposed by the breaking of the surf on the shore, and as they rapidly followed the receding waves, and buried themselves in the sand. The sand, on being dug up, was found to be as full of them as an ordinary plum-pudding is of currants.

Below Ocean Grove, near low-tide mark, the Lady Crab, *Platyonichus occellatus*, was frequent. Above Ocean Grove, and above the high-tide line, in the dry sand, and in the bank covered with Sea-sand Grass, *Calamagrostis arenaria*, the burrows of the Sand Crab, *Ocypoda arenaria*, were numerous, and the animals frequent. One of these crabs, brought home after eight days, was still in good condition without once having been in water. It appeared to be fond of meat of any kind, and had been fed on beef and oysters.

Supplementary Note on the Aeronautic Flight of Spiders.—Rev. H. C. McCook remarked that, in the Proceedings of the Academy for 1877, pp. 308–312, would be found the result of some observations made by him upon the ballooning habits of spiders, which he was now able to supplement by several important items. The facts which he had to detail were observed Oct. 1, 1878, upon the farm of Mr. Geo. B. Lownes, about ten miles from Philadelphia, in Delaware County; and they would best be presented by giving the record made in his note-book of the flight of several spiders. The day was warm and bright, and a gentle breeze was blowing throughout the day, but not steadily from any quarter.

No. 1. A young Lycosid, apparently *Lycosa scutulata*, Hentz. On the side of a fence-post opposite to the wind, face downward, abdomen elevated, the body raised by the legs. Followed it after flight for 200 feet; it rose as high as 30 feet before it was lost sight of. Its flight was across a wide meadow, and promised to be a long one. Several threads were streaming out and up behind and before the spider.

No. 2. A saltigrade, probably the young of Hentz's *Attus vittatus*, on the side of a fence-board opposite the wind. Its legs elevated, raising up the body, abdomen turned well nigh straight upward, long thread floating out and up from the spinnerets; it walked several inches upward along the rail, keeping its body in the same stilted position, the thread meanwhile flying, and then was off, rather slowly, and about on a line with the face. There was one small thread in front and one (or more) behind. It moved straight forward for about 50 feet, and then rose suddenly upward.

No. 3. *Lycosa*, observed at 2 P. M. Actions as No. 1. Distinctly saw one thread before and apparently two behind; the head was toward the wind. After 15 feet it rose up and out of sight, a long stretch of meadow before it. Once before it mounted it lifted up one hind foot as though holding on to the stay thread.